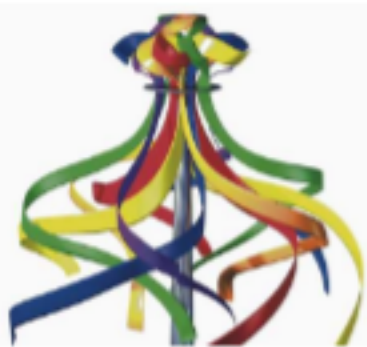


connections

It's May, it's May, the lovely month of May!

May 2025

May Day



May Day is a European festival of ancient origins marking the beginning of summer, celebrated 1 May, halfway between the Northern Hemisphere's spring equinox and June solstice.

Traditions often include gathering wildflowers and green branches ("bringing in the May"), weaving floral garlands, crowning a May Queen (sometimes with a male companion), and setting up a Maypole, May Tree or May Bush, around which people dance and sing. Bonfires are also a major part of the festival in some regions. Regional varieties and related traditions include the Gaelic festival Beltane, the Welsh festival Calan Mai, and May devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It has also been associated with the ancient Roman festival Floralia.

Loyalty Day

Loyalty Day is observed 1 May in the US. It was proclaimed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower as a day for declaring loyalty to the US and acknowledging American history.

The date, 1 May, was set to counter International Workers' Day and was recognized by the US Congress during the height of the Second Red Scare.

Each year on Loyalty Day, the current president is requested to issue a proclamation asking American government officials to display the American flag on government buildings.

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY is observed around the world on 12 May (anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth) each year, to mark their contributions. Hug a nurse!

Cinco De Mayo

Cinco De Mayo, fifth of May, is an annual celebration held to commemorate Mexico's victory over the Second French Empire led by General Ignacio Zaragoza, at the Puebla Battle in 1862. Zaragoza died months after the battle from an illness, however, and a larger French force ultimately defeated the Mexican army in occupied Mexico City.



Following the end of the American Civil War in 1865, the US began lending money and guns to the Mexican Liberals, pushing France and Mexican Conservatives to the edge of defeat. At the opening of the French chambers in January 1866, Napoleon III announced he would withdraw French troops from Mexico. In reply to a French request for American neutrality, the American secretary of state, William H. Seward replied, "French withdrawal from Mexico should be unconditional."

As unusual as it may sound, Cinco de Mayo is more popular in the US than in Mexico! Cinco de Mayo has become associated with the celebration of Mexican-American culture. Celebrations began in Columbia, California, have been observed annually since 1862.

Cinco de Mayo is sometimes mistaken for Mexican Independence Day—the most important national holiday in Mexico—which is celebrated 16 September, commemorating the Cry of Dolores in 1810, which initiated the Mexican War of Independence from Spain. Cinco de Mayo has been referenced and featured in entertainment media, and has become an increasingly global celebration of Mexican culture, cuisine, and heritage.